

In contrast, the nonwoven fabric of the present disclosure does not contain other fibers such as metal fibers. The nonwoven fabric of the present invention is substantially composed of carbon fibers. Therefore, the special technical feature (STF) of the present disclosure should be nonwoven fabric essentially made of carbon fiber having a diameter of 0.01 to 1 micron.

Therefore, STF of the present disclosure is different from that of Chen, which is directed to a composite.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that there is unity of invention and the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement are respectfully requested.

Also, Applicants request rejoinder where appropriate if any of claims 1 and 3-15 are allowed.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Application No.: 10/578,776

Attorney Docket No.: Q94801

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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